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BPA moves forward with environmental studies

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Bonneville Power Administration

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Portland, Ore. - The Bonneville Power Administration announced today it will resume environmental studies on a proposed high-voltage transmission line to the southern Oregon coast.

"The environmental studies are critical to the proposed project that would reinforce BPA's transmission system in the southern Oregon coast, making it possible for [Nucor](#) to build a steel mill there," said BPA Administrator Judi Johansen. "Nucor has agreed to pay for these studies whether they build the plant or abandon their plans. If for some reason BPA is unable to build the power line, the agency will shoulder an equitable share of the costs of the environmental studies.

Johansen met earlier today with [U.S. Senator Ron Wyden](#) (D-OR) who supports the project. During the meeting, Johansen and Wyden spoke with Nucor's Chief Executive Officer John Correnti and hammered out the agreement. If Nucor decides it will not build a steel mill in North Bend, Ore., the steel company will reimburse BPA for 100 percent of the costs incurred from this time forward. BPA would pay for the additional costs of the Environmental Impact Statement if BPA decided not to complete the transmission line project.

"This is good news for the south coast. It is an important step forward in the long march to secure high-skilled, high-waged jobs for Coos County, a community with one of the highest unemployment rates in the state," said Senator Wyden.

Johansen emphasized that this is not a decision to build the proposed transmission line. BPA is examining four alternatives, including not building a line. "Nucor's willingness to accept its share of the risk for the cost of the environmental studies will help us determine if it is at all feasible. I am pleased with Nucor's openness and John Correnti's accessibility."

The Bonneville Power Administration, a federal agency under the Department of Energy, is committed to providing reliable transmission service to electric utilities in the southern Oregon coast. Growth will eventually require some additional transmission capacity. Even greater capacity is required more immediately if Nucor decides to build a new steel mill.

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